

## Medical Schools of California

# Loma Linda University School of Medicine

THE LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, which is closely affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was originally chartered as the College of Medical Evangelists in 1909 and graduated its first class in 1914. The rural location at Loma Linda, about fifty-five miles east of Los Angeles near San Bernardino, developed as a basic science campus, and opportunities for clinical teaching were sought in urban Los Angeles.

A long and excellent affiliative teaching relationship was realized between the School of Medicine and the Los Angeles County General Hospital. In addition, the clinical program was significantly augmented by the building of the White Memorial Hospital and Clinic conveniently near the County Hospital. Accordingly, the medical school developed in a two campus form: the two basic science years in Loma Linda and the two clinical years in Los Angeles.

In 1961 the institution's name was changed to Loma Linda University to reflect its wider interests and involvements. The University now includes in addition to the original school of medicine, schools of dentistry, nursing, health-related professions, public health, education, and the graduate school. The university's College of Arts and Sciences is located on its Riverside campus. The very prominent health science related emphasis is a deliberate feature of the University's program.

With the passage of time it became increasingly clear that the two-campus situation resulting in the separation of the basic and clinical science instructional areas was inhibiting the long-range growth and development of the medical school. Consequently, in 1962 the decision was reached

to move the clinical departments and their teaching activities from Los Angeles to the Loma Linda campus. This decision made long-range planning possible with respect to curriculum, faculty development, and the construction of seriously needed physical facilities. One can readily imagine the serious problems involved in the transfer of the clinical portion of a medical school from one area to another, including the establishment of new clinical facilities; and this extensive transfer certainly could not have been accomplished without the wholehearted cooperation of the trustees, faculty and student body. In addition, special thanks are due the Los Angeles County General Hospital and the School of Medicine of the University of Southern California for their strong understanding support during this critical period.

The complete transfer of the clinical teaching program to the Loma Linda campus, including the planning and construction of a new 510-bed university hospital and medical center, was accomplished by 1967. This medical complex, which became functional in July 1967, now constitutes the heart of the clinical teaching program. This unit includes outpatient facilities, departmental areas for the clinical faculty, and research laboratories.

The now united medical school is pleased to be located in the rapidly growing San Bernardino-Riverside area where valuable teaching affiliations have been established with local hospitals. The most significant of these is the affiliation with the Riverside County General Hospital involving all major clinical teaching disciplines. Patton State Hospital has proved to be an outstanding source of support in psychiatry. Important teaching relationships are being developed with the Kaiser

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Reprint requests to: Dean's Office, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Loma Linda 92354.

Foundation Hospital. Limited but very helpful teaching opportunities have been provided by the March Air Force Base Hospital and the San Bernardino County General Hospital, and discussions are in process with other nearby hospital units.

Extensive study of the curriculum has been in process during the past four years with the hope that revisions could be made that would help to realize more fully the educational objectives of the school. These objectives include providing the student with an opportunity to build a sound foundation of basic medical knowledge and a sense of obligation to continue the learning process throughout his professional life; to develop investigative curiosity and problem-solving approaches to medical problems; to be guided in the development of a balanced set of values as revealed in intellectual, ethical and spiritual attitudes. It is hoped that the student will recognize in medicine a high calling and will be unselfishly motivated toward mankind and his problems.

The curriculum is largely based on an interdisciplinary approach during the first two years in which basic and clinical scientists together present the so-called "core of medical knowledge" through lectures, seminars, laboratory experiences, demonstrations and limited appropriate clinical activities. Clinical activity in psychiatry and behavioral science is also a part of the first and second years' curriculum. The third year (12 months) is devoted to an intensive, highly patient-oriented clinical clerkship experience, with the student serving as "assistant intern." The clinical time is shared by internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, gynecology and obstetrics, and psychiatry. The fourth or senior year is on a guided elective basis, providing the student with an opportunity to explore an area of choice in considerable depth, to contact a

broader range of interests, or perhaps to pursue a significant research problem. It is hoped that this curricular approach will provide a reasonable balance of disciplined learning and flexibility to meet the challenges of medicine as they appear.

The school at present admits approximately a hundred students to its freshman class and looks forward to a modest increase in this number in recognition of the medical manpower needs of the nation and the world. Expansion of the basic science teaching facilities will be necessary, however, before any significant increase in enrollment can be achieved.

The School of Medicine now has more than 4,000 alumni. Although a significant number of these physicians reside in California and contribute to meeting local medical needs, the alumni distribution in general is extremely cosmopolitan with respect to the United States and abroad. The school has always had a keen interest in the international aspects of medicine, and many of its alumni have made contributions in the international arena. The faculty and students continue to have an active, on-going concern for the health needs of the developing countries of the world.

The faculty of Loma Linda University School of Medicine has high aspirations for its students beyond the wish to see them become scientifically stimulated and competent. The faculty is eager to help its students become physicians in the sense of fulfilling the need that each patient has to identify with a practitioner of medicine. This sensitivity to human need is a quality which should pervade all persons involved in the healing arts and sciences without respect to the discipline practiced—most difficult to teach but so extremely important.

DAVID B. HINSHAW, M.D., Dean